

SENDING

After hearing and responding to God's Word, we are prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

* HYMN 305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! DARWALL'S 148TH

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE Partita on Darwall's 148th *Charles Callahan*

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Liturgist: The Rev. Diane J. Fitch

Chancel and Chapel Choirs: John Sall, Director

Organist: Ethel Geist

We are glad you are worshipping with us and invite you to participate in the ministry and service of Abington Presbyterian Church.

Greeters today are: Sheri McCork and Susan Parsons.

Ushers today are: Barry Rowland, Ruth Draper, David Faust, Ashbil Gill, Barbara Rowland, David Rowland.

In need of special prayers this week: Al Foster, Stewart Boerner, Jack Waite, Linda Lonsinger, Janice Lufkin, Ned & Bobbie Leiby, Linda Gustafson, Jane Thomson, Hiroko Dean (mother of John Dean), Jeanne Mueller (mother of Anne-Marie Constable), Bernice Carson Smith (niece of Amy Carson Smith), Tom Galloway (brother of Roy Galloway), Joseph May (father of Debbie Gallagher), Will Das (nephew of Lynda Smyth), Kristin Rothfuss Erbst (daughter of Julia & Guy Rothfuss), Donald Elliott (son of Barbara Elliott), Tom Wilson (brother of Bill Thygeson), Joan Thompson, Gina Wylie (friend of Erma Yerkes), Debbie and Charlotte Cornell (friends of Mary Garrett), Erma Yerkes, Freedman Family (neighbors of Cindy Nuss), Lisa Laskow Adams (friend of Cindy Nuss), Patrick Looby (friend of Marlyn Whyte), Eryk Howie (great-nephew of Linda Maisenhelder), Bob and Barbara Cody (family of Rev. Jack Norrie), Logan Mitchel (great-nephew of Craig Nicholson), Patrick Vanderslice, Walter Boutcher, Joan Wissman (mother of Mary Anne DerMosesian).

We offer special prayers for comfort and sympathy to the family of Mary Maisenhelder as they mourn her recent death.

Confidential prayer requests may be submitted

to: APCprayerchain@gmail.com.

The flowers are given by Marilyn Carter, in loving memory of her brother, John E. Daly.

During Today's Worship: If you need assistance, please ask an usher to assist you.

Child care for infants and toddlers is provided in the nursery (Rooms 110, 112). Travel through the door to the left of the chancel and down the steps.

Children's bulletins are available at each door.

Large-print bulletins including hymns and individual hearing devices are available in the back of the sanctuary.

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

We request that cell phones be set in silent mode while in the sanctuary.

For information regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals, please call the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.

*In Loving Memory
of*

Mary Maisenhelder

2/29/1920 - 9/3/2017

Lectionary Lessons for today:

Ex. 12:1-14; Ps. 149; Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

Lectionary Lessons for September 17, 2017

Ex. 14:19-31; Ps. 114 or Ex. 15:1b-11, 20-21; Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded 1714

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The Reverend Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill, *Head of Staff*

The Reverend Diane J. Fitch, *Associate Pastor*

The Reverend Stanley T. Wherry, *Minister of Visitation*

Ruth Ideen-Sall, B.M. *Director of Children's Choirs and Ministries*

John Sall, M.M. *Director of Music Ministries*

Ethel Geist, M.A. *Organist*

Janet Tebbel, M.M. *Director of Handbells*

Gary Koch, *Business Manager*

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20



Abington Presbyterian Church

September 10, 2017

10:00 A.M. Celebration Worship

Homecoming Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Homecoming Sunday

September 10, 2017

10:00 am

GATHERING

We gather to praise God, in God's sanctuary, to rededicate our lives to the service of God through music, spoken word and discipleship.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

May the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, and the relationships of our lives be acceptable to you, O Lord. Thank you for gathering us in your name to serve you through this place. Shape us as your people. Amen.

PRELUDE Trumpet Tune on CWM RHONDDA *Wayne Wold*
(Hymn 307, God of Grace and God of Glory)

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here, where God would teach us:

so we may learn to be more compassionate, and taught how to be more loving.

We gather here, where Jesus would teach us:

the wisdom to choose the ways of grace, and experience a hope worth sharing.

We gather here, where the Spirit would teach us:

the radical welcome of the gospel, and that we belong to God and to one another.

* HYMN 409 God Is Here! *ABBOT'S LEIGH*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we rebel against whoever would tell us how to live, including you. When we have been wronged, we want to fight back. When we are angry with others, we do not want you to forgive them. When we are alienated from others, we prefer to ignore them rather than face the difficult process of reconciliation.

Forgive us, Merciful God, and unclasp our hands from any grudges. Your presence defines our true home. Your dreams for us point us toward our true identities as your loving, gracious, and compassionate children.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How wonderful is God's steadfast love and kindness! The divine healing embrace that we have needed is delivered. In God's presence, we are made new –

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us also forgive ourselves and one another!

* RESPONSE Glory Be to The Father *Hymn 581*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST *Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANTHEM In My Father's House *Craig Courtney*

In my Father's house, you will find a place in the warm embrace of an open door,
In my Father's house, leave the past behind, come inside and find what you're longing for.
In my Father's house, solace can be found, comfort will surround the bruised and broken,
In my Father's house, children live in peace, war and hatred cease and love is spoken.

In my Father's house, you will find a place in the warm embrace of an open door,
In my Father's house, leave the past behind, come inside and find what you're longing for,
In my Father's house, pardoned from all sin, free from what has been, life can start again,
In my Father's house, prodigals come home, no one walks alone, come and enter in, in my Father's house.

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children will remain in worship following the Children's Message.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 12:1-14 *Bible OT Pg. 58*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:15-20 *Bible NT Pg. 20*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON A True Home to Which to Come *The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill*

* HYMN 301 Let Us Build a House *TWO OAKS*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Unity Statement Adopted by Abington's Session

Abington Presbyterian Church celebrates God's infinite love and believes all people are equal in the eyes of God. We welcome all to worship and serve with us. We seek to work together to oppose intolerance, racism, and injustice that threaten the unity of humankind.

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond by offering prayer and returning our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY Prayer Litany *H. Kemp, arr. M. Kemp*

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, day by day.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is despair, may I sow hope.

Where there is darkness, let me sow light, and where there is sadness, may I sow joy.

And Lord, of thee three things I pray, to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly day by day.

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, day by day.

Let me sow love, hope, light, joy!

* DOXOLOGY *Hymnal 607*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION